

Tiverton Town Council Landfill Subcommittee

Regular Meeting Minutes: June 20, 2007

I: Call to Order

Chairman Wyman called the meeting to order at 3:08 PM at the Tiverton Town Hall.

Members present: A. Wyman (Chairman), T. Ramotowski, J. Fernandes, D. Wilbur, D. Webster (Director of Public Works), and W. G. Steckman (Town Administrator).

Members absent: R. Hart

II: Approval of Minutes

Because the minutes had not yet been prepared and distributed, this item was deferred until the next regular meeting of the Subcommittee.

III: Additions/Changes/Acceptance of Agenda

Mr. Ramotowski stated that he was concerned that the Town had not increased the amount of money being placed into the restricted account for landfill closure costs. The fact that only about \$168,000.00 per year is being put into that account means that the Town will need to bond a significant portion of the landfill closure expense. Mr. Ramotowski suggested that the Subcommittee should explore other options that might eliminate the need for bonding to pay for landfill closure expense. For example, the Town could accept trash or construction debris from outside entities, and use the fees charged to offset some of the closure charges. Such an option may be economically viable, because the Pare report had indicated the cost of operating the landfill was about the same as what the cost would be for the Town to send its trash to the Central Landfill in Johnston. Such an option, however, would need to be undertaken soon, before Town trash uses up too much of the remaining space for trash disposal at the landfill.

Mr. Steckman stated that if the landfill could remain open for another ten years, then an additional \$2,000,000.00 or so of money would be added to the closure account, assuming the amount added each year remains fixed at about \$168,000.00. In addition, the Town earns interest on the money in the closure account. Mr. Webster noted that the Town Council was given a copy of the Pare Report, which recommended that about \$400,000.00 minimum be placed into the

landfill closure account each year. That amount was request for next fiscal year, but it was cut from the budget.

Mr. Ramotowski stated that some of these alternatives needed to be thoroughly researched this year, because delays in their implementation could greatly reduce the benefits they provide. Chairman Wyman suggested adding this item for discussion on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mr. Webster stated that it was unclear if the landfill's operating license or RI-DEM would allow outside materials to be dumped at the landfill. In addition, the potential revenue such an undertaking might bring in to the Town is smaller than what one might think. Pare's latest estimate for useful life for the landfill is 8 years. Pare also estimates that the Town dumps about 6900 tons of trash each year at the landfill. If all that capacity (6900 tons/ year for 8 years) were to be made available to outside users at a *generous* dumping/tipping fee of \$60/ton, the total amount of revenue that would be generated would be about \$3,000,000.00. The Town would still have costs associated with running the landfill as the outside material was accepted, in addition to the cost of sending the Town's trash to the Central Landfill.

Mr. Ramotowski noted that the closure account presently contains about \$3,000,000.00, and if \$3,000,000.00 could be raised by taking in outside materials, and there were 8 more years of adding \$168,000.00 to the account, there would be about \$8,000,000.00 available for closure when the landfill needs to be closed and capped – and that is much closer to the cost for same estimated by Pare. Mr. Webster noted that \$60/ton was very generous, and the Town might only get half of that amount. Mr. Fernandes stated that he agreed that this option needs to be looked at and seriously considered. Chairman Wyman suggested that a small group get together and work out the details to see how viable it really was. Mr. Ramotowski stated that this option needs to be brought to the attention of the Town Council sooner than later, because every year that it is not done knocks \$200,000.00 to \$400,000.00 off of the potential total revenue stream, depending upon how much the Town could charge per ton of landfilled material. Mr. Steckman stated that he would ask the Town Treasurer to provide an update on the current status of the landfill closure account.

IV: Public Input

No members of the public were in attendance; therefore, there was no public input.

V: Landfill Traffic Counts Resumed 01 March 2007– Counts to Date

Mr. Webster handed out copies of a spreadsheet with that contained the traffic count data collected to date. The data indicate that from March to June of 2005, there were 7474 vehicle-trips to the landfill; for the same period in 2006 there were 5056 vehicle trips, and for the same period this year, there were 6469

vehicle-trips. Thus, traffic is down by about 10% from the 2005 level (before disposal restrictions were put in place by the Town Council. Chairman Wyman noted that the trip numbers for 2007 also included visits to the recycling bins, which are now located deep within the landfill, rather than near the entrance (as was the case in 2005 and 2006). Mr. Webster noted that Pare's estimate for the amount of trash dumped at the landfill was lower for 2006 than for 2005.

Mr. Wilbur noted that during a recent visit to the landfill, he had seen a large number of books in the trash pile. Mr. Webster stated that some people are still showing up at the landfill with vehicle loads of construction/demolition debris – roofing shingles, etc. These people are told that they cannot dump such materials at the landfill anymore, and that they need to take the materials to the Central Landfill, or hire a commercial rubbish disposal service. Needless to say, they are not happy when they are told this, but the landfill regulation changes are over a year old now, so people should be more familiar with what is and is not allowed to be disposed of at the landfill.

VI: Renewal of Contract with Pare Corporation – Proposal Copies

Mr. Webster distributed copies of the Pare proposal to members of the Subcommittee. The document includes the estimated cost for each service to be provided. Chairman Wyman stated that it was nice to see all the details laid out. Mr. Webster noted that there was a cost increase due to the need to conduct landfill height surveys twice a year as opposed to annually as had been the case in the past.

Mr. Ramotowski asked if the cost of testing potential sources of cover material for the landfill was in the landfill budget's engineering services line item or in the cover material line item. Mr. Webster stated that it was in the engineering services line item; the money in the cover material line item is strictly for purchasing dirt.

Mr. Steckman noted that the proposal and its estimated costs had been reviewed by himself, Mr. Webster, and the Town Solicitor.

VIII: Alternate Cover Material – Memo on Effect of Bid Price

Mr. Webster distributed a copy of an internal memo he had sent to the Town Administrator. The memo discusses the implications of the bids the Town received for the cover material needed at the landfill. The lowest bid received was \$6.90/ton delivered. At that price, the 15,000 cubic yards of material that will be needed next year will cost about \$135,000.00, a figure which exceeds the amount available in the landfill budget line item for cover material.

Mr. Ramotowski asked if the material to be purchased would need to be tested. If not, then some of the money that is normally spent on testing possible cover material could be used to purchase cover material instead. Mr. Webster stated

that the request for bids indicated that the purchased material would need to meet RI-DEM's requirements for use, so the Town should not need to test what it is purchasing.

Mr. Webster stated that the Town will be receiving some crushed rock from the Starwoods Development. That material could be used to shore up some grades, etc.

Mr. Ramotowski asked where the extra money needed for the purchase of cover material for the landfill would be obtained. Mr. Steckman noted that the cover material line item in the current year's budget had not been completely spent – there will be about \$30,000.00 of funds carried over into the next fiscal year. The rest will have to be found elsewhere in the budget. Mr. Ramotowski asked if any material had been received from the construction activities related to the new school. Mr. Webster replied that a small amount of material had been received – about 700 cubic yards worth.

VII: Alternate Cover Material from Patriot

Mr. Webster reported that RI-DEM had verbally informed T. Thies of Pare Engineering that the material from Patriot was unacceptable for use at the landfill. That decision effectively eliminates this potential source of alternate cover material from consideration.

IX: Date and Time for the Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Landfill Subcommittee was scheduled for July 18, 2007 at 3:00 PM at the Town Hall.

There being no further business to discuss, the Landfill Subcommittee's June 20, 2007 regular meeting adjourned at 3:53 PM.

These minutes were recorded and compiled by T. Ramotowski